

In the Claims:

Amend claims 6 - 8, 10, and 12 - 16 as indicated below:

1.(previously presented)      A knife assembly comprising:

a knife having spaced-apart first and second sides defining a thickness of the knife;

a base;

a wearshoe; and

an upper clamping member, said upper clamping member and said wearshoe adapted for mounting engagement with said base so as to provide a gap between a first portion of said upper clamping member that is cantilevered from said base, said first portion for receiving said first side of said knife, and a corresponding portion of said wearshoe for receiving said second side of said knife, said gap being greater than said thickness, the apparatus adapted for elastically deflecting said upper clamping member so as to close said gap and bring said first portion of said upper clamping member into contact with said first side of said knife, for clamping the knife between said upper clamping member and said wearshoe.

2.(cancelled)

3.(previously presented) The assembly of claim 1, wherein said wearshoe and said base include cooperatively interlocking portions adapted to substantially prevent movement of said base, relative to said wearshoe, in a first direction toward the knife.

4.(previously presented) The assembly of claim 3, wherein said wearshoe and said base include cooperatively ramping portions adapted to resist movement of said base, relative to said wearshoe, in a second direction opposite to said first direction.

5.(previously presented) The assembly of claim 1, wherein said wearshoe and said base include cooperatively ramping portions adapted to substantially prevent movement of said base, relative to said wearshoe, toward the knife.

6 (currently amended). ~~An assembly for clamping a knife~~ A ring slicer, comprising:

a base;

a wearshoe; and

an upper clamping member, said upper clamping member and said wearshoe adapted for mounting engagement with said base at respective opposite sides thereof for clamping the knife, wherein said wearshoe and said base include cooperatively interlocking portions adapted to

substantially prevent movement of said base, relative to said wearshoe, in a first direction toward the knife, and a second direction opposite to said first direction.

7.(currently amended)      The ~~assembly~~ ring slicer of claim 6, wherein said wearshoe and said base include cooperatively ramping portions adapted to resist movement of said base, relative to said wearshoe, in a said second direction ~~opposite to said first direction.~~

8.(currently amended).      ~~An assembly for clamping a knife~~ A ring slicer, comprising:

a base;

a wearshoe; and

an upper clamping member, said upper clamping member and said wearshoe adapted for mounting engagement with said base at respective opposite sides thereof for clamping the knife, wherein said wearshoe and said base include cooperatively ramping portions adapted to resist movement of said base, relative to said wearshoe, toward the knife.

9.(previously presented)      An apparatus for cutting an article of wood, comprising:

a ring assembly comprising two end plates for rotation about an axis of rotation;

and

a plurality of knife assemblies, each assembly comprising an elongate knife having a cutting edge extending along an elongate axis, a base, and a clamp for clamping the knife, said assemblies for installation between said end plates such that the shoulder portions of at least two shoulder bolts extend through one of said end plates into said base.

10.(currently amended)      The apparatus of claim 9, wherein each said clamp includes an upper clamping member for mounting to the corresponding base so that a portion of the upper clamping member is cantilevered therefrom, wherein the upper clamping member includes provision for at least one bolt extending through said portion into the base such that tightening the bolt elastically deflects said upper clamping member to bring the upper clamping member into contact with one side of the corresponding knife.

11.(previously presented)      The apparatus of claim 10, wherein each said clamp further includes a wearshoe for mounting to said base and supporting the other side of the corresponding knife.

12.(currently amended)      The apparatus of claim 11, wherein, for each said clamp, the wearshoe and ~~said~~ base include cooperatively interlocking portions adapted to substantially prevent movement of the base, relative to the wearshoe, in a first direction toward the corresponding knife and a second direction opposite to said first direction.

13.(currently amended) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein, for each said clamp, the wearshoe and base include cooperatively ramping portions adapted to resist movement of said base, relative to the wearshoe, in a said second direction ~~opposite to said first direction~~.

14.(currently amended) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein, for each said clamp, the wearshoe and base include cooperatively ramping portions adapted to resist movement of the base, relative to the wearshoe, in a direction ~~toward~~ away from the corresponding knife.

15.(currently amended) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein each said clamp includes an upper clamping member for mounting to one side of the corresponding base and a wearshoe for separately mounting to an opposite side of the corresponding base, each said clamp for clamping the corresponding knife between the corresponding upper clamping member and ~~said~~ wearshoe, wherein the wearshoe and base include cooperatively interlocking portions adapted to substantially prevent movement of the base, relative to the wearshoe, in a first direction toward the corresponding knife and a second direction opposite to said first direction.

16.(currently amended) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein, for each said clamp, the wearshoe and base include cooperatively ramping portions adapted to resist movement of said base, relative to the wearshoe, in a said second direction ~~opposite to said first direction~~.

17.(original) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein said knife includes dual cutting-edges.

In the Drawings:

Replacement drawing sheets are provided showing the following changes:

- (a) The legend --PRIOR ART-- on Figures 1, 2, and 3.
- (b) Reference designators 75 and 77 on Figure 14.